

MINISTRY TEAMS

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY TEAM

The Leadership Development Ministry Team met faithfully throughout the year to uphold the synodical priority *"We will develop leaders for a new church in a new world."* Our primary task is to encourage and support lay and rostered leaders in the church, to develop and grow their gifts for ministry, and to support them as brothers and sisters in Christ. To accomplish this we are committed to communicating opportunities for leadership development and making funds available, allocated by the synod, for programs and grants for educational opportunities. Please stop by our display and chat with us about your ideas for developing leaders!

1. Help congregations to identify, equip and support lay leaders

- The team supports a biannual workshop for congregational council secretaries to equip them with the necessary information and skills that they need for ministry in their congregational setting.
- The team is developing criteria for a grant process for lay leaders to match continuing education funds.

2. Equip and support rostered and other leaders for ministry needs.

- The team supports a grant process for rostered leaders to match continuing education funds.
- The team is developing a program to support and encourage Mutual Ministry committees.
- The team is reviewing a process to give more effective guidance on compensation guidelines for rostered leaders.

3. Intentionally seek out candidates for rostered leadership.

- The team continues to be in conversation and partnership with Project Connect. Project Connect is a program of the Eastern Cluster of Lutheran Seminaries and is funded by the Lilly Endowment. Its purpose is to encourage young adults to consider a vocation in public ministry.
- The team has supported the Horizon Internship program in the synod.

4. Provide or insure support for the families of rostered leaders.

- The team, along with Family Life Services and mission district leaders, is working to provide Pastoral Care Team ministry for rostered leaders and their families. Currently two mission districts (East Berks Mission District and Northern Lehigh Valley Mission District) are enjoying this program. Two additional mission districts (Scranton/Wilkes Barre Mission District and West Berks Mission District) have been identified and are working toward providing Pastoral Care Team ministry for their rostered leaders and their families. We look forward to working with the other five mission districts in the future.

Many thanks to the current team members for their hard work and dedication to developing leaders for a new church in a new world: Sarah Borger, the Rev. Greg Frey, the Rev. Kurt Garbe, tyna Kaltenbaugh, Russell Kaufman, the Rev. Michael Scholtes, and the Rev. Mark Wimmer.

Gregory W. Frey, convener

EVANGELIZING CONGREGATIONS MISSION TABLE

Comprising the Witness and Service Ministry Team and the Synodical Outreach Working Group

Who are the Witness and Service Team and what did *they* do in 2010?

The Witness and Service team aims to help the individuals and congregations in our synod to live into our purpose statement:

Encountering and sharing God's word of love given in Jesus Christ—encouraging lives of service.

Helping to accomplish this goal are the many groups that find affiliation under the W&S umbrella: Parish Nurse Task Force, Gay-Lesbian Task Force, the Accessibility Team, and the World Hunger Team.

During 2010, the team awarded \$22,500 worth of grants to a great variety of ministries. Groups from all over the synod received funds for prayer shawls and faith-enhancing art galleries, projects involving children and projects involving older adults, a project benefiting those affected by the earthquake in Haiti and a project to enhance the Lutheran presence in the Pocono Mission District, and a great big potato project that harvested more than 28,000 pounds of potatoes to benefit the hungry throughout the synod.

These grants provide supplementary funds to begin new long-term ministries or additional funds for special events or short-term ministries. Members of the Witness and Service Ministry Team are blessed to read through the grant applications and hear of the creative ways in which congregations are reaching out to share the gospel through ministries of witness and service.

Who is the Synodical Outreach Working Group and what did they do in 2010?

The Synodical Outreach Working Group focuses on a variety of different tasks within the synod—overseeing Partnership Support grants from the ELCA churchwide organization, working with ethnic specific ministries, reviewing applications for loans from the synod’s Church Loan and Development Fund, developing and supporting new and cooperative ministries, and helping renew a mission focus in our congregations. Around a dozen of our congregations are participating in Unbinding the Gospel, an evangelism emphasis. Many others are exploring cooperative ministry possibilities with neighboring congregations, Lutheran and ecumenical.

This year, the partnership ministries in our synod have seen a great deal of change. Iglesia Luterana San Martin de Porres in Allentown, Trinity Deaf Congregation in Reading, and Source of Love Indonesian Lutheran Chapel in Scranton are all in the middle of pastoral leadership transitions. There are several layers of development with Latino Ministry within our synod. Along with the many congregations that are doing outreach to their Spanish-speaking neighbors, there is an ecumenical conversation about Latino Ministry in the Lehigh Valley and a group that is working to draft a new Latino Strategy for the synod. Mike Bennethum, synodical DEM is also working with our Methodist ecumenical partners to develop a Latino outreach in Easton – Iglesia Cristiana La Hermosa.

Together these two groups form the synod’s Evangelizing Congregations Mission Table. Here’s what we have been doing together:

Our first gathering as a large group was in October of 2010, so we are still figuring out the vision and direction of this table. Along with continuing the work of these two teams, we are dreaming of new ways to engage people and congregations in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with those in their communities. At every other meeting, we spend the majority of our time talking together about how we see God at work in our midst and how we are being called to join in. A question that we have been asking is how to engage more indi-

viduals and congregations in this conversation—perhaps through a workshop or synod-wide event in the future, perhaps through tapping into the work that we are doing as a synod with A Renewal Enterprise. We are also seeking for more voices to be added to this conversation—would you like to join us? Do you know someone who has a passion for evangelism who might like to serve on this table? If so, please contact Mike Bennethum or another member of this group.

Members of this joint group are Barry Mitchell (convener), Doug McKeeby, Glenn Simmons, Guy Ehler, Grace Olson, Mike Bennethum, Bob Cimerol, Amy Jahn de Torrez, Mary Wolfe, Keith Rohrbach, Bob Machamer, Paulette Obrecht, David Hill, and Frank Terhune

Amy Jahn de Torrez

Synod Latino Strategy Task Force Report

We were convened by the Rev. Michael Bennethum, Associate of the Bishop/Director for Evangelical Mission, on May 20, 2010 to review and prepare a Synod Latino Strategy document. Representatives in attendance were Sister Amy Jahn de Torrez (elected recorder), Pastors Nelson Quiñones (elected chairperson), John Lamb, Peggy Wuertele, Janell Wigen, and Michael Bennethum.

The Task Force reviewed the 2003 Synod Latino Strategy Task Force Document. In addition, the chair consulted with the Latino Ministries office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America about the availability of a Latino Strategy and the Ohio Synod to view their strategies in preparation of this Task Force draft.

Today, the Task Force has begun the draft process.

Nelson Quiñones

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

After a summer retreat, the former Worship and Spirituality Team has reorganized itself and renamed itself: the “Worship Team.” The educational ministry component of our team has been removed, and a separate “Spirituality Team” has been newly formed and will focus primarily on the spiritual formation of people in the synod. With the separation of these ministry aspects, the Worship Team has redefined its role in the synod: To lead the synod to understand and practice faithful worship.

With that purpose to guide our ministry together, we have organized ourselves to:

1. Care to faithful worship at synod events.
2. Facilitate worship education.
3. Offer and distribute the Worship grant.
4. Communicate and network about worship on all levels of the church.
5. Maintain technical administration of the Worship Team.

With the development of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Lutheran Center, we look forward to developing weekly opportunities to worship with the synod staff, synod rostered leaders, and the entire synod. We anticipate that weekly worship such as this will enrich rostered leaders who sometimes yearn for such an opportunity, provide a venue to present new worship ideas, showcase lesser known liturgical treasures, and provide space and opportunity for the all in the synod to gather periodically as one worshipping community.

Beyond facilitating faithful worship at synod events, the Worship Team will strive to create and support continuing education opportunities for church musicians, preachers, and all who desire enrichment in matters of the liturgy. The Worship Team requests some information from people throughout the synod:

1. Names and contact information from musicians within our synod who are interested in helping with synod worship events and are willing to share their gifts with other congregations.
2. Names and emails of people who would desire to be included in a worship e-newsletter that will include upcoming worship events and links to a blog with discussions concerning the coming liturgical season.

This information can be provided at the 2011 Synod Assembly Worship Display or emailed to nepsworship@gmail.com.

Members of the Worship and Spirituality Team this year included: the Rev. Jira Albers, the Rev. Randeale Albers, Jean Grube, the Rev. Douglas Holtz, Linda Maule, and Dale Zmijewski (with a seat left open for Rändel Wolfe).

Joining us this year were our synod's two new partners (Partners in Evangelical Worship): Melanie Werley and Charlie Grube. They will help to lead our team and our synod in education and opportunities regarding worship. We welcome

their wisdom and their connection with the wider expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Finally, do not forget that the Worship Team has a grant. Do you need money to develop a worship related ministry? Contact us with your request - nepsworship@gmail.com.

Jira Albers, convener

ACCESSIBILITY MINISTRIES TEAM The "A Team"

The "A Team" mission is to "...encourage and assist all congregations of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA, to open their hearts, minds, and doors to all of God's people... by removing barriers of architecture, communication, and attitude that exclude any person from full and active participation in the life of Christ's Church." The team met several times throughout the year, and provided:

- + the "Speaking, Singing, Signing and Seeing The Psalms" workshop by the Rev. Jeanne Beadle at the January 23, 2010, Learning Ministries Day workshop at Atonement Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wyomissing, and "The Use of Assistive Technology for Christian Education and Spiritual Enrichment" by Ms. Carrie Kane, Certified Assistive Technology Professional at Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network, Allentown.
- + a Synod Assembly display of accessibility resources, which was very well attended (approximately 40 voting members and visitors).
- + Accessibility Sunday (2nd Sunday in October) resources for an early fall synod mailing and for the synod website.
- + a review of the accessibility resources linked on the synod website.

The team is also developing a resource of bulletin inserts to help congregations learn to compassionately and effectively welcome and relate to persons with disabilities in the congregation and in the community.

Pastor Paulette Obrecht, pastor of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pen Argyl, joined the team as the Synod Council support person. Other members are: Mrs. Barbara Hartman; Pr. John Keiter; Mr. Dennis Oberholtzer; Pr. David Kistler; Mrs. Carolyn Volk; Ms. Mary Smith, Emeritus. New members would be welcome. A person to represent people familiar with autism and/or visual

challenges is especially needed. A representative from the Pocono area is also needed.

The A-Team members grieve the loss of one of their very faithful members, Pr. Jeanne Beadle, former assistant pastor at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and well-loved pastor of the congregation, led by and serving persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

William Horn, convener

CANDIDACY COMMITTEE

The Candidacy Committee continues to be a gathering of committed leaders who give generously of their time to help provide care and guidance for the individuals who are preparing to become rostered church leaders, both lay and ordained. In 2010-2011 twenty-five applicants and candidates were involved in the process. At this time we have five students who have begun the application process with the hope of starting seminary in the fall of 2011. Thanks to your Mission Support and grants from the Student Education and Prosser funds, over \$19,600 was spent to help our students in the preparation process. The outlay for one full year at seminary, including all living costs, is estimated at around \$36,000. When you consider that most of our students begin seminary with undergraduate student loans, you can see how important it is that we do all we can to try to raise additional funds to help minimize additional loans. Thank you to all the congregations who made special gifts this year. If you or your congregation would be interested in making contributions, please contact me in the synod office.

I want to take this opportunity to express sincere thanks to Ms. Susan Schellenberg who has served our committee for the past 11 years. Susan graciously agreed to stay on after her two terms were completed to serve as Candidacy Committee Chair while we sought someone to take that position. Susan was the first lay person to have served in this capacity. She brought gifts of clarity and dedication to the mission and ministry of what God is doing in this very important area of our synod leadership development. She will be greatly missed.

Following our assembly we will be welcoming Pastor Rick Summy to the position of Candidacy Committee Chair. He brings knowledge of the workings of this committee from his former experience as Region 7 Coordinator and as the former Director of Admissions for the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

The members of the Candidacy Committee, in addition to our meetings, take a great deal of time both in preparation for our gatherings and in consultation with the students. We are happy to have implemented over this past year a format for greater contact with our students. Each committee member has taken on the responsibility of being a "Relater" to 2 or 3 students. We have gotten very positive feedback from the students on this more involved expression of concern for them and their candidacy process. The committee's determination to be responsive to the needs of each individual while taking seriously the leadership needs of the church is a clear indication of just how seriously they take their responsibilities.

At our meeting on August 20, 2010, the Candidacy Committee unanimously voted to give Rashion V. Santiago a positive Approval Decision for ordination, pending the receipt and acceptance of a proper call.

Rashion V. Santiago is a member of St. Luke's - Christ Partner Parish in Reading. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Trinity Lutheran College in Everett, WA and a Master of Divinity Degree from The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 2010. Rashion completed a quarter of Clinical Pastoral Education at Geisinger Health System, Danville, PA and did her Internship at St. John's Lutheran Church, Newark, NJ and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, East Orange, NJ. Rashion has been assigned to the New England Synod and awaits a call.

At our meeting on November 11, 2010, the Candidacy Committee approved Daniel W. Brettell and Debra A. North for ordination, pending the receipt and acceptance of a proper call.

Daniel W. Brettell is a member of Arndt's Lutheran Church in Easton. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Trenton State College, Ewing, NJ in 1974; a Teaching Certificate in Comprehensive Science from DeSales University, Allentown, PA in 1996; and, a Master of Divinity Degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in 2010. Dan completed a quarter of Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem, and completed the Internship portion of his Residency Program at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bethlehem (Fountain Hill). Dan was ordained on February 19, 2010 and installed as pastor of St. Paul, Bethlehem [Fountain Hill] on February 27, 2010.

Debra A. North is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Smithfield in Craigs Meadows. She received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ in 1978; a Master

of Arts Degree from Montclair University, Montclair, NJ in 2000; and a Master of Divinity Degree from Moravian Theological Seminary, Bethlehem, in 2010. Debra completed a quarter of Clinical Pastoral Education at The Reading Hospital, Reading, and did her internship at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Whitehall. Debra has been assigned to Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and awaits a call.

I ask you to continue to encourage those around you whom you see exhibiting gifts for rostered ministry. It is often the case that young people begin to think about serving God in those years when we work with them in Confirmation Ministry. Your words of guidance and support can help them to begin to seek God's will for their lives. Please feel free to have prospective students call me if they would like to discuss options for service in rostered ministry.

Mary W. Gade, synod staff

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Lutheran ministries are present on college and university campuses in our synod, sharing the Gospel through word and deed with the whole campus community. The primary outreach is through Partner Congregations, congregations that minister to and with a college or university in their area. These are ministries such as St. Peter's, Bethlehem – related to Lehigh University; Union, Schnecksville – related to Lehigh Carbon Community College; and Trinity, Kutztown and St. John, Kutztown - related to Kutztown University. Two other ministries work in our Synod: the Chapel at Muhlenberg College, an ELCA-related college; and Campus Ministries of Northeast PA, an ecumenical ministry that works cooperatively with synod congregations in the northern part of the synod.

The Campus Ministry Affinity Group meets regularly for mutual support and conversation about the synod vision for campus ministries. The Affinity Group seeks to support existing Partner Congregations, maintains a website for congregations and students, and identifies Lutheran students in synod colleges and universities.

Synod funding for Campus Ministry comes from congregation benevolence to the synod and ELCA, and is distributed by the Witness and Service team to the Campus Ministry Affinity Group. Congregations and ministries that wish to receive funding should contact the Campus Ministry Affinity Group at www.nepacampusministry.org. In 2010, the internal grant program distributed gifts to students at Kutztown University to support an

Alternative Spring Break service trip to Fruitland Park, Florida and worked through the organization Harvest of Hope.

If you or your congregation would like to become involved in campus ministry, please contact the Rev. Keith Rohrbach, group convener, or the group at www.nepacampusministry.org. For more information about ELCA Campus Ministries, check <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Campus-Ministry.aspx>.

The Campus Ministry Affinity Group

GAY/LESBIAN MINISTRY TASK FORCE

The period since the last church-wide assembly has been a time of new challenges, increased optimism, and renewed dedication to our mission. In addition to our continued presence at Synod Assembly with display, workshops, and the chance to engage in one-on-one discussions with voting members, and visitors, our members have been visiting pastors, councils, and congregations which have requested dialogue concerning the Reconciled in Christ program. Several congregations in our territory are in various stages of discernment, discussion, and prayerful consideration of our mission to make people of all sexual orientations and gender identities truly welcome in our congregations. By all accounts this process is a wonderful opportunity to examine our faith and what true welcoming involves, and what it proclaims to our members, our communities, and our world.

Our commitment to our mission means that we are available to assist any congregation desiring to explore the welcoming process. We can be reached through the synod website—come and see our newly developed online presence (thank you Carol).

For those individuals whose congregations are not ready to begin the formal RIC process but who wish to express their individual support of our work, there is the Reconciling Lutherans program. It is a shot in the arm for us to see our number of supporters and partners grow.

Our presence at LIFT continues with displays, information, and workshops.

Our taskforce continues to grow, and we welcome new members. We meet monthly at synod headquarters. If you would like to become a part of this exciting and growing ministry, contact us and come join the fun.

Bob Hensley, chair

GLOBAL MISSION

Global Mission in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod is handled by four sub-committees (one for each of our four Companion Synods - Argentina; Saxony, Germany; Slovenia; and South Central Diocese, ELC, Tanzania). Each sub-committee meets regularly and functions in the way that best serves that sub-committee.

Saxony, Germany

The Saxony Companion Synod Committee is responsible to relate to our Companion Synod in Saxony. We relate especially to the Lobau-Zittau District. Much of our work in 2010 was in planning the Youth Exchange which took place in October. We hosted 16 youth and two adults from the Lobau-Zittau District and the Leipzig District. The youth were here for ten days and spent five days with host families in the Mountain Top/Hazleton area. While there they visited the Eckley Miners Village and a high school football game in Hazleton between Hazleton High School and Crestwood (Mountain Top) High School. They all enjoyed experiencing a new sport. We had an outdoor covered dish dinner in an old barn complete with a bonfire and hayride. During this time we also spent two days in New York City. The remaining five days were spent in Friedensburg where they attended a local school and a local vo-tech school. They also spent two days in Washington DC.

We began our plans to visit Saxony in October of 2011. We will be celebrating Henry Melchior Muhlenberg's 300th birthday in the Grosshennersdorf church where Muhlenberg served before coming to America. Bishop Bohl of the Evangelisch-Lutherischen Landeskirche Sachsens will preach.

Wayne and Michele Kaufman, co-chairs

Slovenia

The Slovenia Companion Church Committee's focus for 2010 was two-fold. During the summer, we arranged a "return visit" of nine teens and two adult chaperones to the Prekmurje area of Slovenia (the area where Lutheran families are concentrated in that country!) after having hosted a group of ten teens from that area of Slovenia in homes throughout our synod during the summer of 2009. We were pleased to send an excellent group of young people which included the following: Nathaniel Campia (youth advisor, St. John Windish, Bethlehem), Schyler Cordova (Dinkey Memorial, Ashfield), Ben Frederick (Holy Trinity, Kingston), Tori Geiger (St. Peter, Bethlehem), Philip Kaufman (St. Paul, Mountaintop), Saman-

tha Kucsan (St. John Windish, Bethlehem), Allison Monroe (Emmanuel's, Emanuelsville), Cora Monroe (Emmanuel's, Emanuelsville), and Jenna Weiss (St. John Windish, Bethlehem). Adult Chaperones for the trip were Dave and Lynne Ambrose (Emmanuel's, Emanuelsville).

The second focus of our committee was the preparation of a proposed "covenant agreement" between the Evangelical (Lutheran) in Slovenia and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. That document was completed and presented to Pastor Leon Novak, who represented Bishop Geza Ernisa of Slovenia, when he visited our synod in early November of 2010. Pastor Novak then carried the document back to Slovenia on our behalf. Shortly thereafter, we received word that the Slovenian Lutheran Church had indeed accepted this proposed covenant. We now look forward to it being formally signed by our own Bishop Zeiser and Bishop Ernisa when Bishop Zeiser visits our companion churches in Europe (Saxony and Slovenia).

Our committee's focus for 2011 will now be to prepare to once again host a group of teens from Slovenia in 2012. We are actively seeking "host families" as well as youth from our synod who would like to join the "return trip" to Slovenia in 2013.

The Slovenia Companion Church Committee would also love to increase its ranks. If you would be interested in becoming a member of our team, please contact Pastor Kurt Garbe at the Hazleton synod office or me at pastor@stjohnswindish.org.

Gary Langensiepen, chair

South Central Diocese, ELC Tanzania

The South Central Diocese Companion Synod Team has been busy in 2010 continuing to strengthen our companionship with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania.

At the 2010 Synod Assembly the ELCA Global Mission Regional Representatives for Tanzania, JMe and Bob Lowden, visited our Synod Assembly to bring greetings to us from our Tanzanian companions and to speak on their ministry. They also presented two workshops prior to the assembly. Shortly after their visit with us they resigned their positions with the ELCA. They were replaced in January by Ms. Barbara Hinderlie who will serve as the Regional Representative for Tanzania and Madagascar.

A Youth Vision trip was held from June 23 through July 7, 2010. Seven youth, two young adults, and three chaperones traveled to the South Central

Diocese. This was the second Youth Vision Trip to our companions. These trips help to broaden our perspectives on the world and to give us first hand knowledge of the culture of our companions. Those who attended the trip had a chance to spend three days in several of the companion congregations, worshipping with them on Sunday July 4. We can learn so much about our faith as we travel, interact, learn from, and work with members of the SCD.

Our synod team has been working on developing a Synod/Diocese Covenant which we hope can be signed by Bishop Zeiser and the Bishop of the South Central Diocese. A trip is being planned for Bishop Zeiser to travel to the diocese in September of 2012. We also continue to work on developing guidelines for our Companion Congregations and developing better communications between the synod, diocese, and congregations. Look for our display and workshops at the Synod Assembly/ LIFT/LYF in June.

If your congregation is interested in being a companion to a congregation of the South Central Diocese, please be in contact with the synod office or me.

Russell Haab, chair

Together as companion synods, companion congregations, and partners in Global Mission, we will continue to meet the changes, challenges, and mission and ministry opportunities that God blesses us with on our faith journey.

Kurt E. Garbe, staff liaison

World Hunger Appeal Committee

The World Hunger Appeal Committee has lost many of its faithful members. We spent much of 2010 trying to re-organize the committee. We would like each mission district to have at least one participating member. We meet quarterly at the synod office. If you have a passion to fight hunger domestically and internationally, get in touch with us.

Our synod experienced a drop in World Hunger giving in 2010. We are trying to find new ways to help congregations participate in World Hunger giving.

We are currently trying to plan a Bike for Hunger Event for 2012. Please give your congregation members the opportunity to support this worthwhile ministry.

Wayne Kaufman, chair

Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team

The Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry team will build and support ministry with children, youth, young adults and families in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod communities (church, mission district, synod)

We will:

- 1. Develop ways to share ideas and resources for children, youth, young adult, families and congregations including the use of social networking sites, blogs and the synod website;*
- 2. Plan events to equip children, youth, young adults and families to grow in faith;*
- 3. Provide training event for the purpose of building and supporting ministry with children, youth, young adults and families;*
- 4. Provide financial support for young people to participate in synod, regional, or churchwide events/programs; and,*
- 5. Publicize faith growth activities sponsored by other groups such as the region, seminaries and the ELCA.*

The Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry team gathered for its first meeting, a training weekend funded by the Leadership Development team, on October 22-23, 2010. At the training, team members were brought up to date on how the team was organized; discussed their roles and job descriptions; discovered their gifts; enjoyed group building activities; brainstormed events and programs for the year(s) and constructed a framework which the committee could follow for their future meeting dates.

Team membership consists of a young person and an adult from each mission district, the LYF president, Director of Ministry Resources and the convener. Each team member decides which area of ministry they would like to focus – youth, young adult or family ministry. Focus groups meet to work on ministry ideas outside of and inside the team meetings.

Leaders of the youth focus ministry group are working overtime to put the finishing touches on the team's first event: World Hunger Lock-in on July 16-17, 2011 located in each mission district. (More info available on the synod's website; www.godslove.org.) Exploring ways for young adults to be connected through internet resources is the young adult focus ministry group's task. Family Fellowship Day is scheduled for October 16, 2011. Like the World Hunger Lock-in, the

Family Fellowship Day will be held on one day with each mission district hosting a site. More information will be available as the day draws closer.

Members of the Youth, Young Adult and Family ministry team were able to attend the "Do What Matters" workshop at Union, Schnecksville on December 11, 2010. Through this process the team created the facebook page, God Sightings in Northeastern PA Synod. Check out this facebook page!

Thank you to our team members; Margo Reed, Pastor Scott Staub, Joy Gerhart, Kelsie Kegerize, Katrina Fritz, Amber Coe, David Heiney, Chris Pike, Rich Saffron, Erin Anagnost, Ron Lobb, Pastor Tony Pagotto, Destiny Stauffer, Lauren Remillard, Fran Ferrari, Michelle Moon, Heather Moon, Alison Daullary, and Kelly Wallace. Thank you to the Leadership Development team for financially supporting our training retreat! Special thanks to Karen Matthias-Long for her leadership, support and guidance!

Please continue to hold this new team in your prayers as we complete our first year of ministry!

Kathleen M Schaeffer, convener

Lutheran Youth Fellowship

This 2010-2011 year, the Lutheran Youth Fellowship of Northeastern Pennsylvania, consisting of high school aged youth from all across they synod, hosted our annual LYF assembly at Pinebrook Retreat Center with the theme of "Fishing, Fellowship, Faith." At the retreat we had a number of guest speakers including Chandler Carriker from TEY, and Jason Glombicki and Sharon Ann Burns of RIC.

Many of the youth participants also gave presentations on events and programs like Bear Creek Camp; the Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team; and the ONE campaign. As always, the assembly was not just business – there were plenty of games played and laughs shared. My personal favorite moment of the assembly occurred at the closing ceremony, where Pastor Lori Kochanski led an unconventional affirmation of baptism – It involved a kayak and all of the youth getting completely soaked by splashing water on each other! The events of the 2010 Lutheran Youth Assembly were so meaningful to me, and I am sure everyone has gained something by being involved in LYF.

Outside of planning and participating in the annual fall assembly, the Lutheran Youth Fellowship has

made progress throughout the year in drafting resolution. We passed the "Don't Bottle It Up!" resolution, concerning the use of reusable water bottles to protect the environment. Also, we are currently processing a resolution on racism and stereotypes, and have, as an organization, signed on to the resolution "Calling the Church to Speak and Act to Prevent Bullying, Harassment and Related Violence."

One of the biggest steps forward that the LYF has taken is moving our annual assembly from the fall to the summer. This year we will be meeting on June 16-18 with LIFT and the annual synod assembly. It will be at this gathering that the resolution drafted during the year will be brought forward. We will continue to meet in the fall, but will not have plenary sessions as part of our gathering. The upcoming assembly is titled: *Live Your Faith* and will center around the theme of "Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly with your God." A number of other upcoming events can be found on the synod website at <http://godslove.org/youth/lyf.htm>.

This year has been absolutely wonderful for all the youth and adults involved in the Lutheran Youth Fellowship, and I am sure the upcoming years will be successful, not just for the LYF but for the entire Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Kelly Wallace, president

(At the October 2010 gathering of the Council of Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Presidents held in Nebraska, Kelly was elected as one of CSLYOPs co-conveners for the next two years.)